

ELAN

EXPORT LEGAL ASSISTANCE NETWORK

<http://www.exportlegal.org/>

WHO:

Under an agreement between the Federal Bar Association, the U.S. Small Business Administration and the U.S. Department of Commerce, ELAN offers small businesses a one time, free legal consultation with knowledgeable attorneys who have expertise in international trade.

WHAT:

An initial consultation, for a general evaluation on questions of a specific legal nature related to exporting, i.e., contract negotiations, export licensing, distributor agreements, etc.

WHY:

To help small exporters over start-up issues
To show that export questions can be resolved like other business problems
To explain basic contractual, legal, tax or regulatory requirements
To anticipate potential future problems

HOW LONG:

The free consultation is usually for an hour and its scope covers issue / solution identification; recommendations for how to solve legal problems. The purpose is to give an overview and possibly lay the foundation for follow-on legal services with are fee-based. It is not intended for drafting contracts, in-depths legal advice or contract review.

WHERE:

The U.S. Export Assistance Center, Portland [503.326.5498] or the local U.S. Department of Commerce office can make referrals to an ELAN coordinator in the state.